

The Holt County Sentinel.

50TH YEAR.

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PIONEER DAYS OF METHODISM

Interesting Sketch of the Life of Joshua Bowman, Pioneer Methodist Minister.

Among the early families of Holt county was that of Joshua Bowman, a traveling preacher of the Methodist church. He came to the county in 1854, living in the Kunkel and Pierce neighborhoods. He traveled the Oregon circuit that year, and the next was sent to Albany, Gentry county. In 1856 he was again assigned to the Oregon circuit and settled here with his family, where he continued to reside, with the exception of two years, (1866-7), during which he was stationed at Humansville in Central Missouri. Returning to Oregon in 1868, Mr. Bowman next traveled the East St. Joseph circuit under Presiding Elder J. T. Boyle. He moved about 1869, to St. Deroin, Nebraska, where he labored two years; thence to Grantville, Kansas, near Topeka,

scribes, and when he got his complement, appointed the time and opened the school. Webster's spelling book and the New Testament were used as textbooks.

"My parents were devout Christians, members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and often took me with them to preaching and class meeting. The family altar was never neglected, and in old Methodist style a hymn always preceded the prayer. When quite small, I recollect seeing Bishop Asbury arrive at the church in a carriage. Being unable to walk, he was carried to a platform erected in the grove, where he spoke to an eager congregation.

"During my youth I labored on the farm, attending school in the winter, till the fall of 1832, when I left the old home and came west. I stopped during the winter in Indiana, and in the spring came via St. Louis to Southeastern Missouri. The next fall I went back to my North Carolina home and returned with my father and his family to Missouri, settling in

FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH

District No. 17, Rebekah Degree I. O. F., Held Annual Assembly at Forest City.

The district assembly of the Rebekah branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, held its annual meeting at Forest City, on Friday, of last week, April 16th. The district is composed of the Rebekah lodges of St. Joseph, Savannah, Forest City, and several other lodges in Andrew and Buchanan counties, and these are presided over by a district president, Mrs. Winton, of St. Joseph, being the president, who presided during the session, in a very highly creditable manner.

An earnest and sincere address of welcome was delivered by Mrs. Julia Gifford, of Forest lodge, and the response was delivered by Mrs. Pearl Miller, of St. Joseph.

At the afternoon session the routine work of hearing reports from the various lodges of the district, election of officers, and a school of instruction.

The school of instruction was in the hands of the state president, Mrs. Otella Parker, of St. Louis, a woman of extraordinary personality, and who knows the work of the order in its every phase.

The assembly elected its officers for the new year which were:

President, Mrs. May Krauss, of Helena, Missouri.

Vice-President, Mrs. Julia Gifford, Forest City.

Warden, Mrs. B. W. Tadlock, Agency.

Secretary, Miss Ida Blackburn, Savannah.

Treasurer, Miss Anna Newton, St. Joseph.

These newly elected officers were installed at the evening session.

The evening session was principally taken up by exemplification of the Rebekah degree by the degree corps from Eclipse lodge, of St. Joseph, and was most dramatically presented, and the story of the beautiful woman characters handed down by holy writ, was told impressively and each and every part ably taken by the members of the degree staff.

Splendid addresses were delivered by the state president, Mrs. Parker, who told of her year's work now about to come to a close; of the objects and purposes of the order of Rebekah's, and admonished the members of the order to remain steadfast to the cause of Friendship, Love and Truth; to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphans. She also made a strong appeal in behalf of the manual training for the orphan boys at the order's home at Liberty, Missouri. Mrs. Parker is one of the most forceful and eloquent speakers the writer has had the pleasure of listening to in many years. She has that happy faculty of saying something all the time; knows when she is through and stops.

Mrs. Meierhoffer, of St. Joseph, was the "wit and humor" of the assembly, and being a member of the board of managers of the order's orphan's home gave an interesting account of what was being done for the orphan boys and girls, and exhibited specimens of work done by the little ones at the home. She kept the large crowd in a hilarious mood, from the start to the finish of her address, and it put her listeners in the right spirit to enjoy their midnight luncheon.

Mrs. Katharine Winton, the district president, also made an eloquent acknowledgement of the uniform courtesies and helpfulness shown her during her official term, and asked the same help be given her successor. Miss Cora Jones, in well chosen words, and with much feeling presented President Parker with a handsome jardiniere, as a token of love and appreciation held for her by the assembly. Mrs. Meierhoffer, presented District President Mrs. Winton with an elegant cut glass flower vase, and her humor and wit in the presentation, kept the large audience in a roar of laughter throughout her presentation. The recipients responded with clever speeches of acceptance. It is to be hoped the recipients will use their gifts for the purposes intended by the makers; and that flowers may ever be blooming in them.

Another impressive number of the evening's program, was the beautiful memorial service conducted by a team that paid tribute to the memory of the dead of St. Joseph Rebekah lodges. Mrs. Nellie Gartin, of St. Joseph, gave a vocal solo, and on encore sang Annie Laura, so sweetly and with so much expression that we were sorry that she could not have repeated and repeated.

"In disposition, father was unsuspicious and inclined to take his life. (Continued on page 8).

We regret that we did not get the

name of the gentleman from St. Joseph who gave an instrumental solo on a horn, that showed him to be a master of his instrument.

Forest Rebekah lodge was the host on this occasion and nothing was left undone to make the visit of the 150 or 200 Rebekah's a happy and enjoyable one. Under the leadership of Mrs. Mary M. Thornhill as Noble Grand and her corps of aids, they handled the affair from the arrival to the departure of their guests with a most commendable precision and systematic.

The dinner and midnight luncheon was served in the city hall, and it was bountiful in every way and if any guest went away with an empty stomach it was their own fault, for the good Rebekah's of Forest City had it on the tables, and it was served in most systematic order.

The lodge room was elaborately decorated in the emblematic colors of the order, pink and green.

All honor goes to Forest City Rebekah lodge for the royal entertainment extended the 17th district assembly—they made good as they ever do on such occasions.

County Court.

Our county court has been splicing in its April term, between that of the county board of equalization, and it managed to dispose of the following routine business:

George Gelvin was instructed to transfer Floyd Hoke and Frank Wright to the Buchanan county jail. They are prisoners awaiting the action of the circuit court on the charge of robbing freight cars at Napier, March 23d.

The court cast up the vote for county superintendent of schools and found Mrs. Alberta Green-Murphy received 990 votes and Earl Rock, 680. She took the oath of office and filed her bond in the sum of \$2,000.

The county clerk was instructed to give notice to the bankers of the county that the court would receive bids for the county deposits at the May term, on Monday, May 3d.

The county clerk was instructed to prepare the annual exhibit of receipts and expenditures and submit the same to the court at its May term.

The sum of \$1,000 was ordered transferred from the road and bridge fund to the contingent fund.

The cost bill of coroner's inquest in the Nona Hudson case, amounting to \$43.50, was filed.

The sum of \$192 was appropriated for grading and filling of road running north near the Ferguson place, in the Union district, it being understood that parties interested deposit \$320 with the county treasurer, to the credit of the road and bridge fund. Charles Cowan was named commissioner to superintend the work.

Circuit Clerk Dunham filed cost bills in the cases of State vs. Millie Haer, amounting to \$37.25.

J. E. Hodgins, overseer of district, 30; F. L. Williams, 28; Charles Hornecker, 44; A. Karnes, 29; filed their annual reports.

The court named T. Hoffmann overseer of district 38; Norman Horing, of district 15; Albert Kollmer, of district 74.

The court set aside its order made at the March term, authorizing the issuance of a swamp land patent to Sidney Eads.

Henry Armack deposited his check for \$50, donation on work done on county bridge in his district, and the same was placed to the credit of the road and bridge fund.

In The Probate Court.

Judge Dungan held an adjourned term of his court on the 12th instant, and disposed of some unfinished business.

The sum of \$1,600 in the William H. Watt's estate was ordered distributed to Mrs. Robert Gillis, the sole legatee.

An order of sale of the personal property of Annie E. Loudon estate was granted by the court.

A final settlement was made in the John M. Fitzmaurice estate, and a distribution of \$5,498 was ordered to be made to O. W. Mullen, guardian for Mary Fitzmaurice, minor child.

An appropriation of \$250 was ordered from the W. J. Fields' estate for the erection of a monument.

An order of sale of the personal property of the J. L. Riffe estate was granted by the court. Mr. Riffe died February 20th, and at the time of his death was at the head of a hardware firm in Mound City. Since the order of sale was made, we understand that W. L. Riffe, of Craig, has purchased his brother's interest.

W. E. Stubbs, as guardian of Catherine Elkinhuns, will make final settlement at the coming May term, his ward arriving at her majority.

The court refused to grant an order of administration in the William R. Earls estate, for want of sufficient personal property.

INTERESTING LETTERS.

Mrs. Minnie H. Moore Writes Entertainingly of Her Trip to California.

I.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Frank H. Graham, we are permitted to take the following interesting extracts from letters written to her by Mrs. Minnie H. Moore, descriptive of her trip to California, and also descriptions of that wonderful country and its various points of interest. There will be several of these extremely interesting descriptive letters: "San Diego, California."

"This is a pretty place and from our apartments we have a fine view of the city, the bay and the ocean and other points of interest."

"We went to market this morning and saw so many things to tempt the appetite, I wanted to buy everything I saw."

"The R. R. company take pains to put the tourist cars through on the most scenic parts of the road and send a tourist agent along who looks after the welfare of the passengers and points out the places of interest along the way."

"It happened that one of Dr. J. L. Minton's daughters, who married a Saltee, was on her way from Fortescue back to Los Angeles, after a two months' visit in Missouri. Her berth was just across the aisle from mine so we got real chummy. I tried to help her with her two children on the way—two boys, two and four years old, respectively."

"As to the scenery, I only wish I could make you see and feel what I saw and felt as we passed from one natural wonder to another."

"There was nothing of particular unusual sight seeing in Nebraska, except a drove of several hundred white kids and goats being driven to market or some shipping point. It was the first I ever saw. We got to Denver, Thursday morning, at 7:00, and were told to put our watches back one hour. As we had a little over an hour there I went to the waiting room of the station and sent a telegram to Kathleen to let her know I was on the way. It was eight o'clock when I sent the telegram and when I got here Robert told me they got it before I sent it, for it reached them at 7:25 that morning. We had to put our watches back another hour at Ogden, Utah, so we are two hours behind you in time. It seems strange to think that while it is now ten o'clock p. m. here it is midnight at home and you are probably all sleeping soundly—or at least should be."

"We tried to get up an automobile party at Denver and put in the hour sight-seeing, but could not get enough to pay for the trip, so I put in the time writing to Graham. I had seen Denver before any way so I didn't care."

"Thursday afternoon we passed through the Grand Canon of the Arkansas and the Royal Gorge which was beautiful and awe-inspiring beyond description."

"As our train swept along, the narrow ledge at the foot of the gorge swaying and swinging from side to side and winding around the numerous curves, the double engine seemed to me a great trained monster that was trying to show off and boast of the many beauties it had in store for us."

"It was raining part of the way through, although the sun shone, and the rain drops sparkled and took on the rainbow colors as though trying to imitate or reflect the half-colored strata of rock that loomed half a mile above our heads, while the water at our feet foamed and rolled and tumbled over the smaller rocks in alternating cascades and water-falls."

"As we emerged from the gorge the view presented a continuous picture of canons, river and mountain ranges lapping and over-lapping each other until in the distance they were over-topped by a snow-capped range that mingled with the clouds which seemed to pile up in imitation of them until one could hardly tell where mountains left off and clouds began. Then we would be carried to the summit of some mountain and be surrounded by clouds with an occasional glimpse of a deep chasm below—or perhaps a beautiful valley. It was a scene of continual variety and contrast."

"Thursday night we passed over Tennessee Pass (the highest point) and many other beautiful and interesting scenes which we had to miss on account of darkness. The altitude kept my head roaring and my nerves quivering all night long and kept me from sleeping, but the air was bracing to my lungs. We also passed over the Colorado desert the after part of the night and when day light (Friday

morning) came we entered the Utah desert, and though there were mountains and plains—how different was the scene from the day before. The Wasatch range stands out against the sky in their awful nakedness and peculiar formation and reminded one of pinnacles and ancient ruins, while in the basin is deep cuts and clefts in the earth alternating with great upheavals of earth that look like nature had started to work her own roadways or portions of the earth's surface and then purposely left it for man to finish and reclaim. It was awful in its barrenness and desolation. But by afternoon we had entered the beautiful fertile valley of Utah which was such a cheerful contrast with its rivers and lakes and numerous Lombardy poplars, its signs of life, agricultural pursuits and other industries. By the way, one of the interesting sights I saw was a whole mountain side covered with sheep."

"Late in the afternoon we passed through Salt Lake City, but was only there for a short time. We could see the Temple, Tabernacle and State Capitol from our train, but couldn't get very much of an impression of the city. We got into Ogden in time for supper. Passed over great Salt Lake by moonlight which took two or three hours. We crossed Nevada that night. Saturday morning we entered California. It seemed to me she greeted us with the fairest skies, the brightest flowers and the most beautiful streams I ever saw. All morning we were on the summit of the pine covered Sierras, and the only thing that marred the beauty of the scene was having to go through forty-two miles of snow sheds that shut off so much of the beautiful scenery that when we did catch a glimpse through them it was only to tantalize us and make us realize the beauties we were missing."

"We reached Sacramento in the afternoon and Oakland just after dark. In order to get to Oakland we had to cross a strait on a ferry boat which is said to be the largest thing of its kind in the world. It will carry two trains twenty-four coaches long. Our train had fourteen coaches."

"Sunday we followed the ocean nearly all day. I lost my interest in the mountains for the time being in my fascination of the sea. It was so beautiful, shimmering and sparkling in the sunlight as it stretched away to the horizon, while nearer the water's edge the great waves chased each other to the shore as though in great sport. I never could tire watching it."

"We passed through San Jose where Ina lives, Saturday night, and Santa Barbara, Sunday, where Nettie did live until this summer. (The Ina and Nettie mentioned were formerly Miss Ina and Miss Nettie Nies, of this city). One gets a fine impression of all California towns because every way you look there's well kept homes, beautiful flowers and tropical plants. It certainly is a land of beauty. I saw groves of orange trees hanging heavy with golden fruit, beautiful stately palms, climbing roses, great plants of geraniums, heliotropes, lantana, calla lilies in abundance, and the tall creamy pampas plumes waving on every side; and as a fitting and beautiful climax to my journey, about the last thing I saw from the train before I reached San Diego was the sun dropping into the ocean in all its golden glory."

"I have seen so much that was new and such a variety of things in such a comparatively short time that I can hardly realize that it was only a week ago since I left home, and I have seen so many foreigners that I could easily imagine that I've been to Europe."

"I wish you might help us eat some of the delicious strawberries we have to eat as well as other good things that are out of season at home—such as green corn, tomatoes, green beans, in fact everything in the fruit and vegetable line."

"I have seen a hydro-plane and an aeroplane fly over the city since I've been here. They have an aviation field here and one can see the machines flying almost every day. It rained here today—just a gentle summer rain that was delightfully refreshing."

"I certainly appreciate the privilege of seeing so many wonderful things that I never expected to see and only wish that you all might have the same pleasure. I saw many evidences of the wonders that man can perform in the way of buildings, mines, smelters, oil wells, submarine oil wells, dunes, irrigating ditches, tunnels, etc., and I pay my respects to him as a wonder-worker, but they are nothing compared to the vastness, immensity and awe-inspiring wonders of nature made by the Higher Hand that rules the universe."

Lovingly,
MINNIE."



REV. JOSHUA BOWMAN AND WIFE.

and thence, in 1877 to Colorado, where two of his sons had preceded him.

Mr. Bowman began his career as a minister in Missouri in 1851, on the Plattsburg and Liberty circuits. He was ordained an elder by Bishop Ames in 1860. His travels included appointments in Platte, Clay, Clinton, Buchanan, Gentry, Nodaway, Holt, Atchison, Jackson, St. Clair, Polk and Cape Girardeau counties. His last active work was at St. Deroin, Nebraska. During the war, owing to the persecution to which ministers of his faith were subjected in Missouri, and to the generally disturbed conditions, Mr. Bowman retired from the regular ministry for a time and lived quietly at Oregon with his family.

Joshua Bowman was born in Burke county, North Carolina, June 25, 1813. His earliest known ancestor was a member of one of the London colonies to Virginia. In his autobiography, written about 1883, he says:

"My great-grandfather settled on the James river, near Richmond. My grandfather (Edward) emigrated to North Carolina, and settled on the Catawba river in Burke county, and engaged in farming and stockraising. He had four sons, Marshall, Sherwood, Grover and Shephard. The last named and youngest was my father. My uncles, Marshall and Sherwood, served in the War of the Revolution, the latter going blind by reason of exposure. My father fell heir to the old homestead, consisting of nine hundred acres, situated on the Catawba river."

"In those days school privileges were very meagre. Little interest was taken in building houses for the comfort of teacher and pupil. The first schoolhouse in our neighborhood was built of round logs, covered with clapboards, and was without joists or ceiling. The seats were formed of slabs from the sawmill, and instead of desks there was a long table of rough boards, reaching across the room for the use of those learning to write or cipher. For light, instead of windows, a log was cut out of the side of the building, and for glass oiled paper was used. There were no trustees to whom a teacher might go for employment. The teacher drew up an agreement to teach certain branches, as spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic as far as the Rule of Three, canvassed the neighborhood for sub-

Cape Girardeau county.

"The influence of my early training followed me. I united with the church as a seeker and at a prayer meeting in a mining town in Central Missouri, after sincere repentance and much supplication, was brought to light, liberty and happiness as a believer in my Savior. I at once resolved, as God might help me, to do what I could to lead others to repentance. While working for this end, and serving as class leader and steward, I was licensed as an exhorter."

"After my introduction to church work, as above, I was, August 27, 1837, joined in marriage to Elizabeth Miriam Spencer, who to her honor be it said, has been a helpmeet indeed through all these intervening years."

To the foregoing particulars of Mr. Bowman's career one of his sons offers the following tribute:

"Through heredity, and life on the farm, in a salubrious climate, my father was endowed with a vigorous constitution, coupled with a nervous, energetic temperament. The exigencies of those times taught him self-dependence. Farm life involved not alone the planting of seed and following the plow, but building houses and barns, making and repairing implements and generally the use of tools. The handicraft thus acquired served him well in later years. In Cape Girardeau county, Missouri, after leaving his father's home, he built two houses, felling the trees, hewing the logs and riving the shingles with his own hands; at Muscatine, Iowa, he erected a frame dwelling house; at Oregon, Missouri, two, and in Colorado, two; one for a son and one for himself, being then past sixty-four years of age. Besides these houses many minor improvements were made in each case, as fences and outbuildings. He also took up the trade of wagon, carriage and implement wood worker, at which he labored before entering regularly into ministerial work, and after retiring therefrom. His love of the soil never forsook him, and always at the places where he had a permanent dwelling there was a prosperous garden. The secrets of the soil were his, and whatever he planted seemed to flourish."

"In disposition, father was unsuspicious and inclined to take his life. (Continued on page 8).